

Subject: FW: FW: ***PRESS RELEASE*** Metro moves forward with plans that could
From: "John Howland" <jhowland@ccala.org>
Date: 12/20/2016 02:58 PM
To: "Nick Griffin" <NGriffin@downtownla.com>

This went out last night

From: Rebecca Liu Morales [mailto:rlm@m-consultants.net]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2016 6:06 PM
To: Rebecca Liu Morales <rlm@m-consultants.net>
Subject: ***PRESS RELEASE*** Metro moves forward with plans that could eliminate the possibility of an Arts District Purple/Red Line Station at Sixth Street

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 19, 2016

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Metro moves forward with plans that could eliminate the possibility of an Arts District Purple/Red Line Station at Sixth Street

LOS ANGELES—Metro is scheduled to hold a community meeting on Wednesday, December 21, 2016, from 6:30 -7:30 pm, at SCI-Arc to discuss the Metro Red/Purple Line Core Capacity Improvements Project (Division 20 Portal Widening and Turnback Facility). Metro's proposed improvements would eliminate the possibility of the promised transit station at 6th Street.

In order to accommodate increased service levels on the Metro Red/Purple Lines, Metro is planning facility improvements that will allow trains to turn around more quickly after they drop passengers off at Union Station.

This project is important and necessary, however, the RFP for the actual design and construction work is now proceeding in a manner set forth in the final EIR, which would clearly make a passenger station at 6th Street in the Arts District excessively difficult to build, both from an economic and engineering standpoint.

This contradicts previous actions by Metro staff who have already investigated the feasibility and cost of an Arts District/6th Street station along the existing Red/Purple Line tracks in its reports of June 16, 2010 and March 18, 2015 and have indicated that Metro would take no action to preclude such a connection at

6th Street.

Given the fact that the Purple Line Extension will facilitate the need for changes to Division 20, Metro's staff concluded just a year ago that the operational necessities provided the opportunity to "...also serve as an at-grade revenue station..." at 6th Street in the Arts District and concluded that this approach "...is a cost-effective method for expanding rail service to the eastern edge of Downtown Los Angeles and the burgeoning Arts District".

Access to the Metro Red/Purple Line track already exists for the 6th Street/Arts District Station and transit advocates, Arts District residents and business organizations are calling on Metro to ensure it isn't eliminated from future plans.

"The eastside of Downtown has been the center of tremendous investment over the past few years and is quickly becoming a regional hub for housing, employment and culture" said Miguel Vargas, Executive Director of the Arts District Business Improvement District. "Our neighborhood, with its limited vehicle parking and burgeoning residential population, would benefit greatly from access to the rail system, which is why we are asking the Metro Board of Directors to ensure that the design of the Division 20 Turnback facility not preclude a future 6th Street Viaduct/Arts District Station."

"By 2020, the area by the Sixth Street in the Arts District is going to be completely re-designed with new commercial and residential development and new infrastructure, including the Sixth Street Bridge and LA River -- all designed to be primarily accessed by pedestrians and cyclists, so that community activities and truck travel for filming and manufacturing can still operate with the least amount of intrusion by cars" said Hilary Norton, Executive Director of Fixing Angelenos Stuck in Traffic (FAST). "The only way that all of these uses can work in harmony is to ensure that the 6th Street Station is built on the track that already exists at this location."

For more information and to add your name to the list of supporters visit
www.save6thstreetstation.com

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